Supply of substandard seeds to farmers

*534. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of substandard/spurious seeds by unscrupulous seed dealers is adversely affecting the farming community;

(b) the total estimated demand of seeds of various varieties in the country and their total supply by the National Seeds Corporation, the State Farm Corporation of India and State Seeds Corporations;

(c) whether the overall scenario of production/distribution of seeds is satisfactory; and

(d) if not, what steps have been taken so that illiterate farmers get assured supply of genuine seeds, at controlled standard price?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) In order to protect the interests of the farmers as regards seed quality a comprehensive regulatory mechanism has been set-up under the provisions of the Seeds Act 1966, Seeds Rules 1968 and Seed (Control) Order, 1983.

(b) The demand for seeds of various crops for Kharif 2007, at existing seed replacement rates, as projected by the States in zonal input conferences is 78,64,186 quintals against which 84,59,679 quintals of certified/quality seeds are available in the country. The quantity of seeds available with National Seeds Corporation, State Farm Corporation of India and State Seeds Corporations are given in Statement (*see* below).

(c) The National Seed Plan envisages the enhancement of seed replacement rate to 25%, 35% and 100% in respect of self-pollinated, cross pollinated and hybrid crops respectively. There is a large gap in seed production and projected seed requirement as per National Seed Plan.

(d) The Government is implementing a number of schemes to enhance availability of quality seeds at reasonable prices to farmers. It is also providing assistance to States to improve the seed quality enforcement.

Statement

Availability of Certified/Quality Seed with various agencies during Kharif-2007

(Qty in Qtls)

Crop	Availability				Total
	NSC	SFCI	SSC	OTHERS	
Paddy	170664	55758	959577	2640897	3826896
Maize	17672	1133	28152	440001	486958
Jowar	8060		28884	133879	163323
Bajra	5058		44457	179006	228521
Ragi	950		10019	16794	27763
Urd	13487	4589	42877	49355	110308
Moong	3821	3696	49645	72267	129429
Arhar	4094	7200	27598	126159	165051
Cowpea	360	0	500	6952	7812
Moth	300	695	1932	2997	5924
Groundnut	18314	2814	83947	99060	1099135
Till	687	0	4445	12053	17185
Sunflower	708	0	2920	45655	49283
Castor	1976	120	11072	42191	55359
Niger	0	0	130	165	295
Soyabean	78482	11614	652140	948120	1690356
Cotton	347	5759	40359	202993	249458
Jute	12382	0	24393	42827	79602
Others	2374	3379	22138	39130	67021
GRAND TOTAL:	339736	96757	2035185	5100501	8459679